

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	No. 4:21CR0194 (AGF)
CHARLES JOHNSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
	)	

**GUILTY PLEA AGREEMENT**

Come now the parties and hereby agree, as follows:

**1. PARTIES:**

The parties are the defendant CHARLES JOHNSON (hereinafter "defendant" or "Johnson"), represented by defense counsel WILLIAM T. MARSH, and the United States of America (hereinafter "United States" or "Government"), represented by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. This agreement does not, and is not intended to, bind any governmental office or agency other than the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. The Court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement.

**2. GUILTY PLEA:**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in exchange for the defendant's voluntary plea of guilty to Counts I and II of the charge:

a. The Government agrees that no further prosecution will be brought in this district concerning defendant's robbery of the Family Dollar store located at 5324 Virginia, St. Louis, Missouri, on January 1, 2020;

b. The parties agree to recommend to the Court that the sentence in this case concurrently with any sentence that may be imposed in St. Louis City Circuit Court Case No. 1722-CR00544-01;

c. Defendant may request a sentence below the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines range (combination of Total Offense Level and Criminal History Category) ultimately determined by the Court pursuant to any chapter of the Guidelines and Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a); and

d. The United States will request a sentence within the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines range ultimately determined by the Court pursuant to any chapter of the Guidelines, Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553, or any other provision or rule of law not addressed herein.

**3. ELEMENTS:**

Count 1

As to Count 1, the defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a), and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are:

a. The defendant knowingly robbed a Family Dollar in the City of St. Louis, Missouri;

b. The robbery involved the unlawful taking of cash by means of actual force, threatened force, violence or fear of injury, from the custody or possession of an employee of the Family Dollar; and

c. The defendant's actions obstructed, delayed or affected commerce or the movement of any article or commodity in commerce.

Count II

As to Count II, the defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c), and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are:

a. The defendant committed the crime of robbery of the Family Dollar in St. Louis, Missouri, set forth in Count I; and

b. A firearm was brandished in furtherance of that crime of robbery of the Family Dollar in St. Louis, Missouri, as set forth in Count I.

**4. FACTS:**

The parties agree that the facts in this case are as follows and that the Government would prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt if the case were to go to trial. These facts may be considered as relevant conduct pursuant to Section 1B1.3:

a. On January 1, 2020, detectives with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department ("SLMPD") responded to the Family Dollar located at 5324 Virginia, relative to a business robbery. This location is in the City of St. Louis and, therefore, necessarily within the federal jurisdiction of the Eastern District of Missouri.

b. Upon arrival, the officers talked with victims A.C., who was working behind the counter at the register, and Manager S.S. Their statements established the following:

(1) At approximately 9:00PM, the suspect -- later identified as defendant Charles Johnson -- entered the store and shopped. He placed a box containing an air mattress on the counter near the register where A.C. was working. He left the register area and retrieved two more objects, one of which was a Sprite bottle. He placed those two objects on the counter as well, before asking where the manager was. Victim A.C. told him that the manager was toward the back of the store.

(2) Defendant approached Victim S.S. in the back of the store and pulled out a handgun loaded with a drum magazine. Defendant told her to open the safe. The safe was at the front of the store, so she and defendant went to the front of the store near A.C., with the defendant still pointing the weapon at S.S. Defendant told A.C. to lay on the ground. The manager informed defendant that there was a five minute time-delay on the safe, so defendant ordered S.S. to open up the registers and he proceeded to take the money out of the registers amounting to \$267. He then left on foot.

c. The incident was captured on surveillance video. The surveillance video is consistent with what the victims reported.

d. Members of the SLMPD Evidence Technician Unit processed the scene. They were able to lift latent prints off the air mattress box and the Sprite. The latent prints on the air mattress box were found to belong to Defendant Charles Johnson. The latent prints on the Sprite bottle belonged to another individual, K.H.

e. Officers reviewed the surveillance video again and determined that the suspect in the robbery matched the physical description of Charles Johnson. It did not match the physical description of K.H. Officers prepared photo lineups containing photos of both Charles Johnson and K.H. Both photo lineups were shown to each of the victims.

Neither victim identified anyone in the K.H. lineup. Both victims selected Charles Johnson in his lineup as the perpetrator.

f. The Family Dollar is a commercial establishment engaged in interstate or foreign commerce and is in the business of buying and selling articles and commodities that have previously been transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

**5. STATUTORY PENALTIES:**

Count I

With respect to Count I, the defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for the crime to which the defendant is pleading guilty is imprisonment of not more than 20 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court may also impose a period of supervised release of not more than 3 years.

Count II

With respect to Count II, brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, the defendant fully understands that there is a mandatory minimum sentence of 7 years and a maximum possible penalty of life imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court may also impose a period of supervised release of not more than 5 years. The sentence in Count II *shall* run consecutively to the sentence imposed by the Court in Count I.

**6. U.S. SENTENCING GUIDELINES: 2018 MANUAL:**

The defendant understands that this offense is affected by the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the actual sentencing range is determined by both the Total Offense Level



and the Criminal History Category. The parties agree that the following are the applicable U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level provisions:

COUNT 1

a. Chapter 2 Offense Conduct:

(1) Base Offense Level: The parties agree that the base offense level is **20**, as found in Section 2B3.1(a).

(2) Specific Offense Characteristics: The parties agree that no specific offense characteristics apply.

b. Chapter 3 Adjustments:

(1) Acceptance of Responsibility: The parties agree that three levels should be deducted pursuant to Section 3E1.1(a) and (b), because the defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility and timely notified the government of the defendant's intention to plead guilty. The parties agree that the defendant's eligibility for this deduction is based upon information presently known. If subsequent to the taking of the guilty plea the government receives new evidence of statements or conduct by the defendant which it believes are inconsistent with defendant's eligibility for this deduction, the government may present said evidence to the court, and argue that the defendant should not receive all or part of the deduction pursuant to Section 3E1.1, without violating the plea agreement.

(2) Other Adjustments: None.

c. Other Adjustment(s)/Disputed Adjustments: None.

d. Estimated Total Offense Level: The parties estimate that the Total Offense Level is **17**.

e. **Criminal History:** The determination of the defendant's Criminal History Category shall be left to the Court. Either party may challenge, before and at sentencing, the finding of the Presentence Report as to the defendant's criminal history and the applicable category. The defendant's criminal history is known to the defendant and is substantially available in the Pretrial Services Report.

f. **Effect of Parties' U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Analysis:** The parties agree that the Court is not bound by the Guidelines analysis agreed to herein. The parties may not have foreseen all applicable Guidelines. The Court may, in its discretion, apply or not apply any Guideline despite the agreement herein and the parties shall not be permitted to withdraw from the plea agreement.

**COUNT II**

The parties agree that the sentence for Count II is set forth in U.S.S.G. § 2K2.4(b), which provides that "the guideline sentence is the minimum term of imprisonment required by statute." The statute, Title 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(ii), provides that, "if the firearm is brandished," the defendant shall be sentenced to a "term of imprisonment of not less than 7 years," to run consecutively to the term of imprisonment imposed in Count I.

**7. WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS:**

a. **Appeal:** The defendant has been fully apprised by defense counsel of the defendant's rights concerning appeal and fully understands the right to appeal the sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742.

(1) **Non-Sentencing Issues:** The parties waive all rights to appeal all non-jurisdictional, non-sentencing issues, including, but not limited to, any issues relating to pretrial motions, discovery, the guilty plea, the constitutionality of the statute(s) to which

defendant is pleading guilty and whether defendant's conduct falls within the scope of the statute(s).

**(2) Sentencing Issues:** In the event the Court accepts the plea, accepts the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level agreed to herein, and, after determining a Sentencing Guidelines range, sentences the defendant within or below that range, then, as part of this agreement, the defendant hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, but only if it affects the Base Offense Level or Criminal History Category. Similarly, the Government hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, provided the Court accepts the plea, the agreed Total Offense Level and sentences the defendant within or above that range.

**b. Habeas Corpus:** The defendant agrees to waive all rights to contest the conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including one pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, except for claims of prosecutorial misconduct or ineffective assistance of counsel.

**c. Right to Records:** The defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 522, or the Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(a).

**8. OTHER:**

**a. Disclosures Required by the United States Probation Office:** The defendant agrees to truthfully complete and sign forms as required by the United States Probation



Office prior to sentencing and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the government.

**b. Civil or Administrative Actions not Barred; Effect on Other Governmental Agencies:** Nothing contained herein limits the rights and authority of the United States to take any civil, tax, immigration/deportation or administrative action against the defendant.

**c. Supervised Release:** Pursuant to any supervised release term, the Court will impose standard conditions upon the defendant and may impose special conditions related to the crime defendant committed. These conditions will be restrictions on the defendant to which the defendant will be required to adhere. Violation of the conditions of supervised release resulting in revocation may require the defendant to serve a term of imprisonment equal to the length of the term of supervised release, but not greater than the term set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(e)(3), without credit for the time served after release. The defendant understands that parole has been abolished

**d. Mandatory Special Assessment:** Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, the Court is required to impose a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count for a total of \$200, which the defendant agrees to pay at the time of sentencing. Money paid by the defendant toward any restitution or fine imposed by the Court shall be first used to pay any unpaid mandatory special assessment.

**e. Possibility of Detention:** The defendant may be subject to immediate detention pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3143.

**f. Fines, Restitution and Costs of Incarceration and Supervision:** The Court may impose a fine, restitution (in addition to any penalty authorized by law), costs of incarceration and costs of supervision. The defendant agrees that any fine or restitution

imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3663A, an order of restitution is mandatory for all crimes listed in Section 3663A(c). Regardless of the Count of conviction, the amount of mandatory restitution imposed shall include all amounts allowed by Section 3663A(b) and the amount of loss agreed to by the parties, including all relevant conduct loss. The defendant agrees to provide full restitution to all victims of all charges in the indictment.

**g. Forfeiture:** The defendant agrees to forfeit all of the defendant's interest in all items seized by law-enforcement officials during the course of their investigation. The defendant admits that all United States currency, weapons, property and assets seized by law enforcement officials during their investigation constitute the proceeds of the defendant's illegal activity, were commingled with illegal proceeds or were used to facilitate the illegal activity. The defendant agrees to execute any documents and take all steps needed to transfer title or ownership of said items to the government and to rebut the claims of nominees and/or alleged third party owners. The defendant further agrees that said items may be disposed of by law enforcement officials in any manner.

**9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS:**

In pleading guilty, the defendant acknowledges, fully understands and hereby waives his rights, including but not limited to: the right to plead not guilty to the charges; the right to be tried by a jury in a public and speedy trial; the right to file pretrial motions, including motions to suppress or exclude evidence; the right at such trial to a presumption of innocence; the right to require the government to prove the elements of the offenses against the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt; the right not to testify; the right not to present any evidence; the right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; the right

at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; the right to testify and present evidence and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses. The defendant further understands that by this guilty plea, the defendant expressly waives all the rights set forth in this paragraph.

The defendant fully understands that the defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, to have the Court appoint counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. The defendant's counsel has explained these rights and the consequences of the waiver of these rights. The defendant fully understands that, as a result of the guilty plea, no trial will, in fact, occur and that the only action remaining to be taken in this case is the imposition of the sentence.

The defendant is fully satisfied with the representation received from defense counsel. The defendant has reviewed the government's evidence and discussed the government's case and all possible defenses and defense witnesses with defense counsel. Defense counsel has completely and satisfactorily explored all areas which the defendant has requested relative to the government's case and any defenses.

The guilty plea could impact defendant's immigration status or result in deportation. In particular, if any crime to which defendant is pleading guilty is an "aggravated felony" as defined by Title 8, United States Code, Section 1101(a)(43), removal or deportation is presumed mandatory. Defense counsel has advised the defendant of the possible immigration consequences, including deportation, resulting from the plea.

**10. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GUILTY PLEA AND PLEA AGREEMENT:**

This document constitutes the entire agreement between the defendant and the government, and no other promises or inducements have been made, directly or indirectly,

by any agent of the government, including any Department of Justice attorney, concerning any plea to be entered in this case. In addition, the defendant states that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced the defendant to do or refrain from doing anything in connection with any aspect of this case, including entering a plea of guilty.

The defendant acknowledges having voluntarily entered into both the plea agreement and the guilty plea. The defendant further acknowledges that this guilty plea is made of the defendant's own free will and that the defendant is, in fact, guilty.

**11. CONSEQUENCES OF POST-PLEA MISCONDUCT:**

After pleading guilty and before sentencing, if defendant commits any crime, other than minor traffic offenses, violates any condition of release that results in revocation, violates any term of this guilty plea agreement, intentionally provides misleading, incomplete or untruthful information to the U.S. Probation Office or fails to appear for sentencing, the United States, at its option, may be released from its obligations under this agreement. The Government may also, in its discretion, proceed with this agreement and may advocate for any sentencing position supported by the facts, including but not limited to obstruction of justice and denial of acceptance of responsibility.

**12. NO RIGHT TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA:**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c) and (d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the defendant understands that there will be no right to withdraw the plea entered under this agreement,

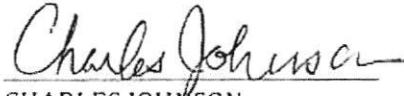


except where the Court rejects those portions of the plea agreement which deal with charges the government agrees to dismiss or not to bring.

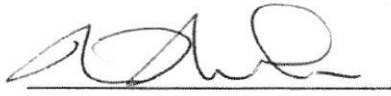
12/06/2021  
Date

  
ALLISON HART BEHRENS, #38482MO.  
Assistant United States Attorney

12/2/21  
Date

  
CHARLES JOHNSON  
Defendant

12/2/21  
Date

  
WILLIAM T. MARSH  
Attorney for Defendant